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# Origin, History, &c. of Y. M. L. A.

In the winter of 1872-73, E. Francis, principal of Schools having organized and successfully carried through a course of Public Lectures, found himself at their close with a small balance on hand; and, in publishing an account of the receipts and expenditures of the course, offered to donate the same towards starting a public library or reading-room. This proposition met with unwelcome response, although it was not without its ultimate result.

The subject of a library was agitated, from time to time, in the District Library Association, which had lately been started, and of which the above named was a member, and it was finally determined to take the necessary steps to secure one. A paper was circulated by one of the members, Mr E. A. Wheeler, and received the signatures of several prominent men, promising generally to aid in the scheme, and help the D. L. A. to obtain a library.

The being deemed not sufficiently definite to answer the purpose, a meeting of the most active members of the Association was called through their Secretary, Mr. E. C. Hamden to take action, regular and effective, on the subject. At this meeting which was held in the meeting-room of Trinity Church, on

There were present the Rev. R. B. Peck, Rector of Trinity Church, Messrs. Geo. D. Conch, E. C. Hamden, E. A. Wheeler, Z. A. Galt, J. W. Atkin and E. Francis, all members of the D. L. A. with Messrs. D. D. Shepherd and E. M. Peck who were present by invitation. A somewhat formal discussion took place as to the most effectual means of carrying out the proposed object, when Mr. Conch announced that the Hon. J. B. Van Noy had commissioned him to offer one hundred dollars (\$100) as a subscription to the library fund, provided other subscriptions could be taken to which should amount with his to One thousand dollars (\$1000).

Stimulated by this liberal proposal, the idea of a library for the D. L. A. was abandoned, for that of a Public Library, and E. Francis moved and E. M. Peck seconded that a committee be elected to take up subscription which should amount to at least One thousand dollars (\$1000) for the purpose of founding a Public